

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the abstract as follows:

A system and method for determining a patient's oxygen uptake ~~the volume of oxygen taken up by the lungs of a human or veterinary patient.~~ A spirometric device containing oxygen is connected to a [[A]] closed ventilation circuit ~~is connected to a spirometric device, which contains a quantity of oxygen.~~ As oxygen is taken up by the patient, an equivalent volume of oxygen passes from the spirometric device into the ventilation circuit. This provides a simple measurement of the patient's oxygen uptake. ~~The volume of oxygen that moves from the spirometric device may thus be measured as an indication of the volume of oxygen that has been taken up by the patient.~~ In some embodiments, ~~a source of make-up~~ Make-up oxygen may be added ~~is connected to the ventilation circuit and the flow of make-up oxygen is adjusted as necessary to maintain a substantially constant volume of oxygen in the spirometric device.~~ The volume of make-up oxygen ~~is measured and serves as an indication of the~~ added will be equal to the amount of oxygen taken up by the patient. ~~A valve may be used to close the~~ The spirometric device may be isolated from the ~~off from the~~ ventilation circuit during all but a part of the ventilation cycle (e.g., all but the late expiratory phase) to prevent unwanted ~~substantial pressure or movement~~ excursions within the spirometric device.